



Page 3 – Southwest Detroiters Welcome Mayor Mary Sheffield at Meet and Greet

EL CENTRAL

HISPANIC NEWS

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Pages 8-9 The MHCC hosted a successful Annual Economic Forum

Latino Voices in Tech regresa y amplifica el talento en tecnología en Detroit

Por Juan Ochoa

Fundadores y líderes tecnológicos latinos tomarán el micrófono el 21 de marzo, cuando Latino Voices in Tech regrese con un evento centrado en conversaciones breves enfocadas en el relato personal y la representación en el creciente sector tecnológico de Detroit. La tercera edición se realizará de 12:00 a 2:30 p.m. en el Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, reuniendo a fundadores, profesionales, estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad para conversaciones, preguntas y respuestas con el público y networking. El formato busca destacar los recorridos detrás de carreras y empresas, en lugar del panel típico de conferencia. “La intención mía es contar una historia”, dijo Andrés Ospina, fundador de CreateValue, la iniciativa detrás de la serie. “Creo que a la gente le llega más cuando le cuentas una historia que cuando te sientas en un panel

a contestar preguntas”. Los presentadores tendrán cerca de 15 minutos cada uno para contar sus historias y conectarlas con lo que están haciendo en tecnología, un campo que hoy toca casi cualquier carrera. “Queremos que las personas vean que hay latinos involucrados en tecnología,” dijo Ospina. “Si ellos pudieron, nosotros podemos”. Esta edición contará con David R. Medina Álvarez, fundador y CEO de LIVAQ, como orador principal. Medina, originario de México, está construyendo vehículos todo terreno eléctricos en Detroit y hablará sobre las realidades de lanzar una startup de vehículos eléctricos en un sector de movilidad altamente competitivo. También participarán Alondra Carter-Alvizo, directora asociada de vinculación comunitaria en Michigan Central, y Ezequiel Darre, director financiero de Motmot, una startup tecnológica con sede en Detroit.

Continúa en la pág.5

“Latino Voices in Tech” Returns to Amplify Tech Talent in Detroit



By Juan Ochoa

Latino founders and tech leaders will take the mic on Saturday, March 21 as Latino Voices in Tech returns with an event built around short keynote talks focused on personal storytelling and representation in Detroit’s growing technological sector. The third edition will run from 12noon to 2:30pm

at the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, bringing together founders, professionals, students and community members for keynote talks, audience Q&A and networking. The format is meant to spotlight the journeys behind the speaker’s careers and companies, rather than the typical conference

panel. “My intention is to tell a story,” said Andrés Ospina, founder of CreateValue, the initiative behind the series. “I think it resonates with people more when you tell them a story than when you sit on a panel answering questions.” Speakers will have roughly 15 minutes each to share their stories and tie them to their work in technology, a field that touches nearly every career. “We want people to see there are Latinos involved in technology,” Ospina said. “If they could, we can.” This edition features David R. Medina Álvarez, founder and CEO of LIVAQ, as the headline speaker. Medina, originally from Mexico, is building electric all-terrain vehicles in Detroit and will discuss the realities of launching an electric vehicle startup in a highly competitive mobility sector.

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Two Detroit Home Repair Programs to Take Applications Through March 22

By Nushrat Rahman for Detroit Free Press – Reprinted with permission

Home repair is an expensive and persistent issue in the city of Detroit, often hitting seniors the hardest. The city has, in recent years, used federal pandemic dollars to make a dent, but demand has been high, resources are limited and, generally, the “home repair crisis” doesn’t have an easy or one-size-fits-all solution. The city’s offering of Detroit home repair programs includes the limited Critical Home Repair and Detroit LeadSafe, according to postings on city websites. Here’s what to know and how to apply: What are the two home repair programs? • Critical Home Repair: This program offers free repairs for homeowners who qualify. Examples include: severe plumbing problems, leaking roofs, a nonfunctioning boiler or furnace, electrical hazards and “accessibility-related repairs to bathrooms and home entrances/exits,” according to a city website about the program. The “most critical repairs” will get funded for households that

are selected. Funding is limited. The program may not be able to address all the repairs in a home. • Detroit LeadSafe: This program is meant to reduce exposure to lead-based paint in homes within specific ZIP codes where children or pregnant moms are present. The program, according to a city website, offers a free lead inspection and home repairs to address lead-based paint hazards for homes that qualify. The city of Detroit Housing and Revitalization Department may also provide non-lead related emergency repairs based on need and funding, including, for instance, a new roof, porch, furnace or water heater. When does the application open and close? Residents can apply for the programs with one application through the city’s Neighborly system. The application is now open and closes Sunday, March 22 at 11:59 p.m. Who qualifies? • Critical Home Repair: For this program, applicants must

own and live in a home in Detroit and be up-to-date on their property taxes (or in a payment plan). They don’t qualify if they’ve previously received a city of Detroit grant. A child under 18 years old, a senior who is 62 years old or above or a resident with a documented disability must live in the home. They must also meet income eligibility requirements, based on 2025 federal income limits. For instance, the income cap for a three-person household is \$54,540. • Detroit LeadSafe: For this program, applicants must own and live in a home in Detroit and be up-to-date on their property taxes (or in a payment plan). Homes in the following ZIP codes qualify, according to the city: 48202; 48203; 48204; 48206; 48208; 48209; 48210; 48211; 48212; 48213; 48214; 48215; 48217; 48227; 48234, and 48238. Detroiters don’t qualify if they’ve previously received a city of Detroit grant. Landlords are also eligible. The homes must have children under 6 years old living or visiting (at least 10 hours a



week) or a pregnant woman residing there. Applicants must also meet income eligibility requirements, based on 2025 federal income limits. The income limit for a three-person household for this program is \$72,750. Where can I apply? A pre-application form is available March 9 to March 22 at the following link: https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/cityofdetroitmi/Participant Where can I get more information?

For more information, go to bit.ly/CriticalHomeRepairProgram for the Critical Home Repair program and bit.ly/DetroitLeadSafeHousing for the Detroit LeadSafe Housing program; call the Detroit Housing Resource HelpLine at 866-313-2520 or email HRDHomeRepair@detroitmi.gov. Reach reporter Nushrat Rahman at nrahman@freepress.com.

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HOMELESS HOTLINE

To ask for assistance for the unsheltered, call the hotline 24-hours / day.

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DIA Seeks Submissions for Wayne County High School Art Exhibition through March 22

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) is excited to announce an open call for entries for the 5th Annual Wayne County High School Art Exhibition. Current Wayne County high school students are invited to submit their most creative, meaningful, and impactful artwork for consideration for the exhibition, which will be showcased at the Detroit Institute of Arts from June 18 through July 19.

Submissions are open through
March 22 at [www.dia.org/
wchsae5](http://www.dia.org/wchsae5)

“Each year, we celebrate the extraordinary creativity of Wayne County’s young artists,” said Detroit Institute of Arts Director Salvador Salort-Pons. “We are proud to provide a platform where students can share their unique perspectives and artistic voices with museum visitors.”

The 5th Annual Wayne

County High School Art Exhibition showcases the work of students in grades 9-12 throughout Wayne County. In previous years, the exhibition featured imaginative pieces by emerging artists in numerous categories, including photography, painting, textiles, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, and more. An extension of the DIA exhibition will take place at the Guardian Building later in the summer, giving participating

artists an additional opportunity to share their work.

“This exhibition represents more than just artwork on display. It’s a celebration of the incredible potential within our young people,” said Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans. “Each submission tells a story, and I’m always amazed by the talent and passion that our high school artists bring to this exhibition. Your creativity matters, and this is your



moment to shine.”

For submission guidelines and additional information, please visit www.dia.org/wchsae5

The Wayne County High School Art Exhibition is made possible by the Tri-County millage. General admission to the museum is always free for residents of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

The Senior Alliance Issues Request for Proposals for FY 2027–2029 Services

Dearborn, MI – The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C, is requesting proposals from qualified organizations to provide the following service to adults age 60 and older in the 34 communities of southern and western Wayne County.

- Meal Preparation for Home Delivered and Congregate Meals
- Oral Nutrition Supplements

- Oral Nutrition Supplements

Successful bidders for Meal Preparation for Home Delivered and Congregate Meals will provide prepared congregate and home delivered meals daily Monday-Friday and deliver prepared meals to distribution sites in each community. The Meal Administration provider will serve the prepared

congregate meals to recipients and deliver home delivered meals to recipient homes. Coordination between the Meal Preparation and Meal Administration providers is required and will be facilitated by The Senior Alliance as necessary.

Oral Nutrition Supplements bids will also be accepted from providers for a separate once-per-month liquid nutrition/oral nutrition supplement program. Meal Preparation for Home Delivered and Congregate Meals bidders are not required to bid on the liquid nutrition/oral nutrition supplement program.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) covers the service period of Fiscal Years 2027–2029.

from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2029. Final funding levels for FY 2027 have not yet been determined.

Organizations must be prepared to provide services in one or more of the 34 designated communities across southern and western Wayne County, with additional criteria related to serving residents of all listed communities.

All prospective applicants for FY 2027–2029 funding must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) prior to submitting a formal application. Letters of Intent must briefly describe the basic elements of the proposed program, major benefits of the applicant agency, key partners, and plans for innovation and sustainability. LOIs must not

exceed one page.

Letters of Intent must be submitted by email to rfp2026@thesenioralliance.org no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2026. RFP documents will be made available only to organizations that submit a Letter of Intent by the deadline.

The Senior Alliance will hold an Application Workshop on March 31, 2026, and all bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. Complete Letter of Intent requirements are available at www.thesenioralliance.org/providers/acls-contractors

For additional information, please contact Elizabeth Wright at Ewright@thesenioralliance.org or 734-612-4280.

About The Senior Alliance

The Senior Alliance exists for one reason: to improve the lives of aging adults. They are our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. They are our histories and our legacies, and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Our large network of providers and passionate staff provide us with the flexibility and agility to provide comfort, clarity, and peace of mind to our clients and their caregivers at a time when life can seem complicated and daunting. We believe aging adults deserve a choice in how they want to live, and we are here to make that happen.

Southwest Detroiters Welcome Mayor Mary Sheffield at Meet and Greet

By Juanita Zuniga

Community members in Southwest Detroit gathered at Vamonos, a local healthy eatery and creative space located on W. Vernor, last Wednesday, March 11 to welcome the newly elected Mayor of Detroit, Mary Sheffield.



From left, Mayor Mary Sheffield, event host Denisse Lopez of Vamonos and Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero.

The premise of the event was to introduce community members, especially those in District 6 to Mary Sheffield. The event itself was spearheaded by community members like Gloria Rocha with the goal of reminding the mayor and her team that Southwest needs to be included in her administration's plans for the city.



Mayor Sheffield greets one of the event planners Gloria Rocha.

"We're part of Detroit, we're proud of Detroit and the mayor was very active and very interested in trying to reach out to the people, but somehow it felt kind of empty out here in Southwest," Rocha said.

Thus, the Meet and Greet came to fruition with Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Mayor Mary Sheffield and many of her appointees. It was a true grassroots community effort to bridge a gap and encourage

residents to show the Mayor and her team that community comes first in Southwest Detroit.

More than 100 Residents of all ages filled the local eatery, wall to wall leaving absolutely no chair or table empty. From babies, to young students to elders; all gathered to welcome the first ever woman elected as mayor in the city of Detroit. Some came with optimism and hope, others with apprehension. Whatever their motivation, the community showed up and showed out.

Mayor Sheffield arrived and fully engaged with residents, shaking hands, taking photos, and listening to stories of the residents and why they chose to join in on Wednesday's event.

Councilwoman Santiago-Romero welcomed the Mayor to District 6 and made it clear this was a community inspired event to connect her to local residents as she begins her term.

Mayor Sheffield stepped to the mic and thanked District 6 for the trust and good faith. She spoke about many topics including the RxKids program (which would support pregnant families and infants up to 6 months with a no-strings



attached monthly payments) and prioritizing small businesses in our communities and neighborhoods across Detroit. She highlighted the Department of Neighborhoods and introduced Dr. Luke Shaefer who was recently appointed as Chief Executive of Health, Human Services & Poverty Solutions for City of Detroit representing a renewed focus on quality of life issues that he will bring to the city.

The Mayor also addressed a serious issue Detroiters are facing every day: Immigration. She assured residents that the Detroit Police Department is 'not to engage with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while simultaneously working to ensure that Detroit does not become a target. Mayor Sheffield wants to support those who need support and protections the most.

Mayor Sheffield claimed there is "not a surge" in ICE arrests and presence in comparison to places like Minnesota, Los Angeles, and other cities across our nation. Some have pointed out, however, data that proves there has been a spike in arrests in Michigan over the last year. According to BridgeMichigan, ICE arrested 2,349 people in Michigan from January through October 2025, nearly triple the number arrested in the state in the same timeframe in 2024.

Mayor Sheffield highlighted local District 6 connections during the event by re-introducing Eva Torres, District 6 Manager and Antonio Mora-Mills, District 6 Deputy



Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero, right, speaks with Juanita Zuniga.

Manager, both of whom she has reappointed.

Lastly, the Mayor ended her remarks by reminding

Detroiters there are no winners or losers and absolutely no denying the overall advancement that is happening – and will happen in Detroit. She stated, "we will all share in Detroit's growth".

"We do want to continue the conversation with her and her staff. Southwest Detroit can continue to grow and flourish. We have been doing a lot of things on our own but once in a while, we do need some help and hopefully she'll be able to provide it," said event host

Denisse Lopez of Vamonos. "I feel like my biggest message from this event is how much more you can get done when you support each other."

In good-ole Detroit-fashion, the event ended with laughs, smiles, and many many hugs. The community residents who gathered for the Meet and Greet broke bread and shared in a delicious meal and fellowship. The food and decorations were provided by local businesses from across Southwest Detroit neighborhoods including Prince Valley, Los Galanes, Donut Villa, Chilangos Bakery, and Chris Engels Greenhouse and Dmex printing, just to name a few.



Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time, Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising. This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.



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2026 Sunshine Week Guest Op-Ed

Letter From the Editor: It’s Cloudy this Sunshine Week.

Two People Can Part the Skies

Every Sunshine Week, the Michigan Press Association honors a public official who advances open government. This year, for the first time, we’re giving no award.



By John Hiner, MPA President, President, MLive Media Group

That’s how cloudy it is over transparency in Michigan. “Unfortunately, this year’s legislative and policy landscape does not reflect the progress or commitment to openness that the award is designed to celebrate,” the MPA said in advance of Sunshine Week, which begins March 15. “Rather than closing that gap, the past year has seen little forward movement – and in some cases, proposals that would further restrict access.” Sunshine Week is an annual observance by news organizations across America, advocating for better access to government dealings and documents, more transparency by public officials and stronger laws for accountability. After decades of advocacy and broken promises, Michigan remains the only state in the nation that exempts the

governor’s office from the Freedom of Information Act. It’s also one of just two states where FOIA does not apply to the Legislature. Let that sink in: Dead last. Michigan isn’t just lagging – it’s the only state still operating with this level of secrecy. As president of the MPA this year, I support the board’s decision. No public official stood out as a champion of reform. But one public official earned responsibility for stopping real reform: Speaker of the House Matt Hall (R-Richland Township). In 2024, when Democrats controlled the House, then-Republican Leader Hall urged them to strengthen transparency laws: “It’s crucial to support proposals that enhance transparency in our government, including stricter requirements for the governor and state departments to disclose documents and communications,” he wrote at the time. “Over the past five years, numerous reports have highlighted the administration’s widespread overuse of privileges, long delays, excessive redactions, and denials in response to records requests.” Those were strong words – and they turned out to be only words. After Republicans won control

and Hall became Speaker, the Senate passed Bills 1 and 2 to expand FOIA to the governor’s office and Legislature. The reforms were finally within reach. Hall declared them “dead” and “a very low priority.” In November, he told reporters plainly: “We’re just not going to do FOIA.” The public overwhelmingly supports reform: An EPIC-MRA poll commissioned by the MPA found 89 percent of Michigan voters support expanding FOIA to the governor and Legislature – across party lines, across regions. If this was on the ballot, it would pass in a landslide. The failure is bipartisan and longstanding. Governor Gretchen Whitmer campaigned in 2018 on an eight-page Michigan Sunshine Plan that promised to expand FOIA to her own office. When Democrats controlled both chambers in 2022, the opportunity was there. It didn’t happen. Transparency should not depend on who holds the gavel. It should not depend on who occupies the governor’s office. It should not be weaponized when convenient and abandoned when power changes hands. Right now, one person can allow a vote on Senate Bills 1 and 2: Speaker Hall. And one person can sign them into law: Governor Whitmer.



Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), co-author of the bills, put it plainly: “If this were put up for a vote in the House, it would pass. There’s no doubt. It has the votes.” So, what are we waiting for? Michigan citizens deserve to know how decisions are made, how money is spent, and how power is exercised. They deserve a government that does not hide behind exemptions no other state tolerates.

Sunshine Week is about accountability. This year let’s put the accountability squarely where it belongs. Speaker Hall: Allow a vote. Governor Whitmer: Sign the reforms. Lawmakers in both parties: Stop hiding behind leadership and stand with your constituents. No more empty rhetoric. No more campaign promises. No more delay. Let the sun in.

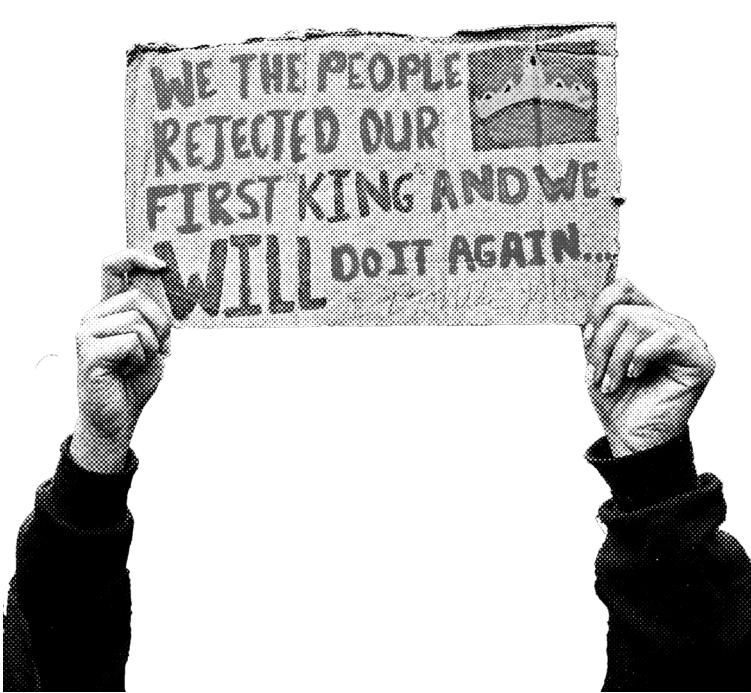
NO KINGS - DETROIT

Over 30 Metro Detroit Organizations Unite in Historic Coalition to Defend Democracy

In an extraordinary show of unity not seen before in metro Detroit’s civic history, 32 diverse organizations spanning labor unions, grassroots advocacy groups, civil rights coalitions, environmental defenders, and community organizations have joined forces under a single banner: No Kings-Detroit. On Saturday, March 28, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Grand Circus Park in Detroit, these organizations will stand together, along with millions of Americans around the country, in a powerful public declaration that democracy is not for sale — and will not be surrendered. The coalition represents a breadth and depth of collaboration that organizers say is genuinely unprecedented. From suburban Indivisible chapters in Ferndale, Rochester, Grosse Pointe, Macomb County, and the Downriver communities, to Detroit-based groups rooted in labor rights, environmental justice, immigrant advocacy, reproductive freedom, and anti-fascist organizing — the breadth of this alliance reflects a shared conviction that threats to democracy require a unified response that crosses every boundary of geography, ideology, and issue.

“What makes this moment historic is not just the number of organizations,” said Audrey Bourriad, organizer of the coalition. “It is the fact that groups who have never before shared a stage are now sharing a mission. We have labor standing with environmental advocates, suburban residents standing with urban activists, and progressives standing with nonpartisan voter protection groups. That is the kind of coalition democracy demands right now.” No Kings-Detroit gives everyone the opportunity to show their concerns. When our families are under attack and costs are pushing people to the brink, silence is not an option. We will defend ourselves and our communities against this administration’s unjust and cruel acts of violence. America does not belong to strongmen, greedy billionaires, or those who rule through fear. It belongs to us, the people. To register or for more information about other rally sites, visit www.nokings.org **THE 32 FOUNDING COALITION ORGANIZATIONS** **1. We the People Dissent** **2. Indivisible Metro Detroit**

- 3. Downriver United 734
- 4. Eastside Indivisible Alliance
- 5. Indivisible Fighting 9
- 6. Macomb Defenders Rising
- 7. Stand Up Indivisible
- 8. Indivisible Huron Valley
- 9. Western Wayne Indivisible
- 10. League of Women Voters Detroit
- 11. Metro-Detroit Democratic Socialists of America
- 12. ABISA
- 13. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- 14. Moratorium Now
- 15. Anti-Fascist Coalition
- 16. Detroit Will Breathe
- 17. Arab Americans for Progress (AAP)
- 18. Michigan United
- 19. OF/BY/FOR
- 20. Voters Not Politicians
- 21. Money Out of Politics (MOP UP MI)
- 22. Forward482
- 23. End Gun Violence
- 24. People’s Coalition
- 25. Strangers No Longer
- 26. Clean Water Action
- 27. Rising Voices
- 28. Reproductive Freedom for All



WHAT: No Kings-Detroit — A Rally for Democracy
WHEN: Saturday, March 28, 2025 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
WHERE: Grand Circus Park, Detroit, Michigan

29. Third Act Michigan	31. Singing Resistance Detroit
30. The People’s Assembly	32. Moratorium Now

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“Latino Voices in Tech” Returns in Detroit

Con’t from pg. 1

Also scheduled to speak are Alondra Carter-Alvizo, associate director of community engagement at Michigan Central, and Ezequiel Darre, financial director at Motmot, a Detroit-based technology startup.

Darre, originally from Argentina and an MBA graduate of Michigan State University, said the event matters because stories can open doors for others.

“I don’t consider myself a benchmark, but I do believe that my story can help someone who is currently where I was a few years ago see that certain goals are also possible for them,” Darre said.

He added that Detroit’s resurgence makes community-building urgent. “Detroit is a city that is being reborn and transformed,” Darre said. “Being able to strengthen the Latino Tech community with platforms like this is very important so that, in the future, there is a more established network in the area like other communities are doing.”

Latino Voices in Tech is an initiative of CreateValue in partnership with the Minority Education Freedom Foundation. Attendance is free, but registration is required to attend.

Latino Voices in Tech will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 12noon to 2:30pm at the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, 1211 Trumbull St., Detroit, MI 48216. Register at <https://luma.com/wqcg05c3>.

Latino Voices in Tech regresa en Detroit

Con’t de pg. 1

Darre, originario de Argentina y graduado de un MBA en Michigan State University, dijo que el evento importa porque las historias pueden abrir puertas para otras personas. “No me considero un referente, pero sí creo que mi historia puede ayudar a alguien que hoy está donde yo estaba hace unos años a ver que ciertas metas también son posibles para esa persona”, dijo Darre.

Añadió que el resurgimiento de Detroit vuelve urgente la construcción de comunidad.

“Detroit es una ciudad que está renaciendo y transformándose”. dijo Darre. “Poder fortalecer a la comunidad latina en tecnología con plataformas como esta es muy importante para que, en el futuro, haya una red más establecida en el área, como lo están haciendo otras comunidades”.

Latino Voices in Tech es una iniciativa de CreateValue en alianza con la Minority Education Freedom Foundation. La asistencia es gratuita, pero es necesario registrarse para asistir.

Latino Voices in Tech se realizará el 21 de marzo de 2026, de 12 p.m. a 2:30 p.m., en el Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, 1211 Trumbull St., Detroit, MI 48216. Regístrese en <https://luma.com/wqcg05c3>.

TechTown Releases 2025 Impact Report: 1,200+ Entrepreneurs Served, 2,000+ Jobs Created and Maintained

TechTown, Wayne State University’s entrepreneurship hub, released its 2025 Impact Report, which showcased the transformative role the organization plays in Detroit and Southeast Michigan’s entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. The data highlighted TechTown’s local impact: in 2025, the organization served more than 1,200 entrepreneurs, created and sustained more than 2,000 jobs, and helped its clients generate \$49 million in revenue.

“TechTown shows what happens when entrepreneurs are surrounded by the right mix of capital, coaching, and community. Behind every number in this report is a founder who took a leap, hired their neighbors, and contributed to the region’s long-term economic momentum,” said Ned Staebler, president and CEO of TechTown and vice president for economic development at Wayne State.

“Together, we’re not just supporting businesses, we’re strengthening neighborhoods, growing talent, and proving what Detroit can do when we invest in the people who power its future,” Staebler added.

“As Wayne State’s entrepreneurship hub, TechTown serves as a critical bridge between academic expertise, emerging talent and the broader economic life of our region,” said Richard Bierschbach, president of Wayne State.

“As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to sustaining an environment where research, education, entrepreneurship and community engagement intersect in powerful ways. Together, we continue to strengthen a platform where ideas move from concept to impact and where Michigan’s innovators shape our region’s future,” Bierschbach said.

The report illustrated how TechTown’s substantial impact extends throughout all its main offerings: small business services (SBS), tech-based programs, business support, and coworking and event space.

- **Overall impact:** In 2025, TechTown served more than 1,200 entrepreneurs, helped sustain and create more than 2,000 jobs, and helped its clients generate approximately \$49 million in revenue.
- Of the 1,200-plus entrepreneurs, 70% were based in Wayne County, 60% were female, and 34% were new to the TechTown ecosystem.
- “TechTown continues to advance a vision that lies at the heart of our mission: ensuring that every entrepreneur has access to the resources, relationships, and support they need to succeed. The outcomes reflected in this report are a direct result of that commitment,” said Valencia Stoudamire, chair of TechTown’s board of trustees. “The founders represented in these pages demonstrate what’s possible when barriers are removed, opportunities are shared, and innovation is made accessible to all.”
- Other program-specific highlights include:
 - **Tech-based programs:** TechTown’s tech-based programs supported 177 start-ups, 77% of which were led by historically underrepresented founders – a proportion mirroring Detroit’s Black population. These startups generated \$9 million in revenue and earned \$2 million in mobility prototyping grants.
 - **SBS:** These programs – which include Retail Boot Camp (RBC), The SHOP, and more – supported 1,014 small business owners, who generated \$40 million in revenue collectively.
 - Tech-based programs and SBS held 1,266 coaching sessions and 837 strategy sessions, totaling more than 90,000 minutes of support.
 - **Business support:** The client list of the Ops+ program grew 700% compared to 2024 totals. Alongside Ask an Expert, the two programs helped manage nearly \$34 million in client revenue.
 - **Coworking and event space:** TechTown welcomed 76 new companies to its coworking and office space in 2025, and its 924 active members represent an occupancy rate of more than 95%. The TechTown building welcomed more than 90,000 visitors through its doors.

Founded in 2000 in a joint partnership between Wayne State, the Henry Ford Health System, and General Motors, TechTown supports all types of small businesses and entrepreneurs in Detroit, drives economic revitalization, and creates equitable opportunities for residents in Southeast Michigan and beyond. For more than two decades, it has helped launch and grow more than 8,000 businesses, ranging from tech startups to neighborhood shops. Its clients have collectively raised and leveraged more than \$500 million in startup and growth capital and created more than 3,500 jobs.

Read the full TechTown 2025 Impact Report at <https://techtowndetroit.org/2025-impact-report/>. Learn more about TechTown and its offerings: small business services (SBS), tech-based programs, business support, and coworking and event space.

Looking to connect with Wayne State? Reach out to WSU OPEN at <https://open.wayne.edu/> – the easiest, fastest way to start accessing the university’s top-tier talent, knowledge and resources.





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Amid Iran conflict, author recalls late bishop's efforts to promote peace



by Michael Stechschulte • Reprinted from Detroit Catholic

Sr. Sue Sattler, IHM, says in book that Bishop Gumbleton's 1979 visit with U.S. hostages in Iran showed another path

As bombs continue to fall in the Middle East amidst the widening conflict following the United States and Israel's military campaign in Iran, bishops and religious communities around

emphasizing Pope Leo's warning. "Catholic social teaching is unambiguous: war must always be a last resort, undertaken only under strict moral conditions."

Tensions surrounding Iran

initially had misgivings, Sr. Sattler said.

"He didn't want to be used for propaganda, but he thought, 'If I can give any comfort to these hostages, I certainly want to do that,'" Sr.

Jr., a U.S. Army sergeant from southeast Michigan who was one of the 52 American hostages.

During the tense diplomatic crisis — which lasted for 444 days — the clergy members' visit was a chance not only to comfort the hostages, but to witness to the world that another path was possible, Sr. Sattler said.

"There were Catholics (among the hostages), but they didn't necessarily put Catholics with him," Sr. Sattler recalled. "It didn't matter what faith they were, but it was just an opportunity for some of the hostages to be with a clergyman at Christmas, to share the experience and meaning of Christmas together in this desolate experience they were having."

Bishop Gumbleton, who died on April 4, 2024, at the age of 94, was "so moved by the experience" that he spent the next four decades working for peace around the world, Sr. Sattler said, speaking out against conflicts and wars and doing everything he could to help people see the humanity in their neighbors.

"When he came back, he gave a lot of talks, and his thing was, everybody involved in this is a person — from those screaming 'Death to America' to the hostages themselves," Sr. Sattler said.



Jean Stokan, director of the Justice Team for the Sisters of Mercy, and the late Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton pose for a photo during a Dec. 2, 2015, memorial service to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the murder of four U.S. churchwomen in Santiago Nonualco, El Salvador. Bishop Gumbleton, an outspoken advocate for peace, celebrated Christmas with American hostages in 1979 at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran. (OSV News photo/Edgardo Ayala, CNS file)

the world are calling for a peaceful resolution and an end to violence.

On March 2, the U.S. and Israel launched joint military operations in Iran, attacking several Iranian sites and killing senior leaders after simmering tensions over Iran's nuclear program reached a boiling point.

In response, Iran has launched missiles and attacks on multiple Middle Eastern targets, including U.S. military bases and energy infrastructure, closed the vital Strait of Hormuz, and vowed to continue fighting as fears grow of a longer war in the region.

Catholic leaders, including Pope Leo XIV and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, have urged an end to the violence and have repeated appeals to leaders to work for peace and dialogue, with Pope Leo warning of a "tragedy of enormous proportions" if a solution isn't reached.

Like many religious communities around the globe, the Monroe-based Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary joined the call for peace, saying in a March 5 statement that "we oppose the U.S.-Israeli military strikes on Iran and any further escalation toward war."

"War is not strength. War is not leadership. War is not peace," the statement read,

have been a constant reality for more than 50 years, said Sr. Sue Sattler, IHM, a longtime member of the Monroe religious community and advocate for peace and justice.

Still, the Church has always warned against the terrible cost and consequences of war, through which immeasurable suffering always follows, Sr. Sattler said.

Perhaps no one knew that more than the late Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton, who, in 1979, was one of three American clergy members allowed to celebrate a Christmas Eve ecumenical service with

hostages at the American embassy in Tehran after the Iranian Revolution, said Sr. Sattler, who with Frank Fromherz co-wrote a biography of the late bishop in 2023.

"This war goes back to 1979, because that's when the students took over (the embassy) and the theocracy was installed," Sr. Sattler said. "Tom felt it was important to understand — not to accept, but to understand — why they were so motivated. He believed that violence begets violence."

When Bishop Gumbleton was asked to visit the embassy under the escort of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, he

Sattler said about the incident, which is detailed in the book, "No Guilty Bystander."

"There were moments when he was concerned about how the media in Iran would portray this, but that was really overcome by his interaction with the hostages."

Before he left for Tehran, Bishop Gumbleton met with the family of Joseph Subic



Bishop Gumbleton celebrates a Mass for peace in the basement chapel of St. Aloysius Church in Washington in 2004. In 1979, Bishop Gumbleton was one of three U.S. clergy who were given the chance to spend Christmas with American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



Sr. Sue Sattler, IHM, a longtime friend and biographer of the late Detroit bishop, recalled his 1979 visit with hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran.

War has a way of crystalizing division and hatred, of grouping and classifying people as "other," Sr. Sattler said. But human beings are not groups, she said, and context always matters, as war affects not just militaries and governments, but citizens, families and the most vulnerable.

"I don't think we realize how old Persia is — that's what modern-day Iran is," Sr. Sattler said. "They're in terrible straits right now for many, many reasons. They have survived so much, and they think they can survive more than we think they can."

Despite the geopolitical situations that lead to conflicts, the Church takes a strong opinion on war precisely because of the humanity involved, she added.

"We have to stop the violence," Sr. Sattler said. "I mean, 160 schoolchildren, mostly girls, were killed on the first day of the war."

In addition to the Iran hostage crisis, the biography also describes Bishop Gumbleton's advocacy in other contexts throughout his life, Sr. Sattler said, including Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, his travels to war-torn regions, and efforts to stand with those on the margins both at home and abroad. In 1972, Bishop Gumbleton helped bring Pax Christi, a Catholic organization dedicated to nonviolence, peace and antiracism, to the United States.

The Vietnam War was a particular turning point, Sr. Sattler recalled. During the 1960s, he was sent to talk with a group of priests who were protesting the war, but after meeting with them, found his own views changed.

"He would listen to people, pray about the situation and what he observed, and let it transform him," Sr. Sattler said. "It was a real change of heart."

Even in her own life, Sr. Sattler said she's witnessed the power of treating people as people — a simple and fundamental concept embedded in the Catholic faith.

Sr. Sattler herself spent time

ministering amidst conflict in Central America, especially in El Salvador during the civil war in the 1980s. St. Oscar Romero, a Catholic bishop, had been killed in 1980, and four U.S. Catholic women missionaries were murdered later that year.

Sr. Sattler said she knew someone who knew one of the murdered missionaries, and “many of us in the religious world were concerned” about what was unfolding.

“The people who were being killed were catechists, health care promoters, teachers and labor organizers,” Sr. Sattler said. “These were peasants. These were poor people, and they were being massacred.”

Sr. Sattler visited El Salvador with a U.S. delegation for the first time in 1987, when refugees who had been sent to Honduras during the war were returning to find their villages “bombed out,” with no running water, electricity or infrastructure.

“They were building tents for widows and children,” Sr. Sattler said. “They had one for health care, one for church, one for education.”

Sr. Sattler recalled the visit took place during the first week of Advent, and “I remember just being transformed by seeing the reality of the Gospel coming alive,” she said.

In El Salvador, Sr. Sattler said she witnessed the simple things that brought joy to the refugees: family, faith and community. A mother watching her children wake up in the morning. Neighbors sharing what they had. Communities pulling together.

“I now understand what was meant by (the Church’s understanding of) the ‘preferential option for the poor,’” Sr. Sattler said. “The poor have nothing to lose, so they live close to the basic values of life. I don’t mean every poor person — I’m not romanticizing it — but I have seen it.”

Practicing nonviolence in a world beset by violence is not easy, Sr. Sattler acknowledged, but the Gospel has never been easy.

“I think it begins in your life treating everyone you meet as a potential friend, as a neighbor, not as the other, whatever category they are in,” Sr. Sattler said. “When we break down the view of someone else as ‘another’ — another race, another culture, another lifestyle — we see that each person in this life is created by God. They are all our brothers and sisters.”



A crowd of people from San Antonio Los Ranchos in Chalatenango, El Salvador, walk with Archbishop Oscar Romero as he arrives to celebrate Mass in 1979. The archbishop was detained and interrogated by soldiers for 20 minutes before being allowed to continue his pastoral visit. Fearing violence, he asked that the Mass be celebrated outdoors. (CNS photo/Octavio Duran)

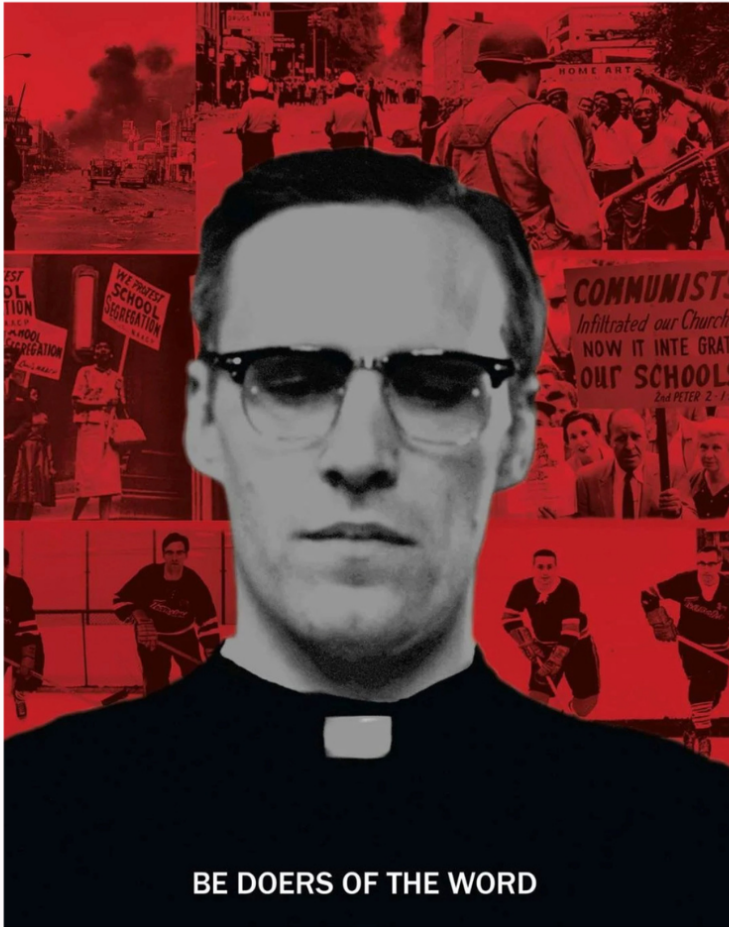


American Bishop Th.J. Gumbleton (r) talks to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs about peace and security, left J.N. Scholten; May 11, 1983; Photo by Croes, Rob C. /Anefo

The Bishop Gumbleton Detroit Pax Christi group invites you to a screening of

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Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hosts Successful 22nd Annual Economic Forum

By Patricia Nava

The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC) hosted its 22nd Annual Economic Forum Breakfast last Friday morning, March 13, bringing together more than 250 business leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals for a morning focused on leadership, economic growth, and community connection.

Held at Elevate at One Campus Martius on the 16th floor in downtown Detroit, the event offered attendees sweeping views of the city skyline. Beyond the view, the morning focused on connection, inspiration, and shared purpose among leaders advancing economic opportunity.

Leadership and Innovation in Conversation

One of the most anticipated moments of the event was a featured conversation with Joaquin Nuño-Whelan, President of Lincoln Motor Company. During the discussion, Nuño-Whelan shared insights about innovation, the future of customer experience, and Lincoln’s continued commitment to the Detroit region.

Reflecting on his connection to the city, Nuño-Whelan shared a personal story about choosing to remain in Detroit during a pivotal moment in his career. “We were actually looking at property on the West Coast, and I was traveling there almost every week,” Nuño-Whelan said. “But we kept talking about what was happening in Detroit — the

energy that was here before COVID and the energy we were trying to rebuild after. At one point I just said, ‘I want to be here. I want to be in Detroit. Let’s stay and double down on this.’”

The conversation was guided by MHCC Board Member Gabriel Rodriguez, who helped shape a thoughtful dialogue that highlighted leadership, opportunity, and the pride both leaders share in their Latino heritage.

As an ethnic and statewide chamber, MHCC emphasized the importance of representation and leadership opportunities for Latino professionals and entrepreneurs.

The Economic Power of the Latino Market

During the event, MHCC Executive Director Mark A. Moreno highlighted the significant economic impact of Latino entrepreneurs in the United States and globally.

“Across the United States today, there are more than 5 million Hispanic-owned businesses generating over \$800 billion in annual revenue. These businesses represent nearly 20% of the U.S. population. If the U.S. Hispanic community were its own economy, it would rank as the world’s fifth-largest by GDP, generating more than \$3.6 trillion in annual economic output. And Hispanic entrepreneurs now account for nearly one in four new business enterprises started in the United States.”

Research from the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative shows that the

number of Latino-owned businesses in the United States grew 44% between 2018 and 2023, far outpacing overall business growth.

Nuño-Whelan echoed the importance of recognizing the scale and influence of the Latino market. “The Hispanic market is the fifth largest economy in the world, and quite frankly people still don’t fully understand the scale of that,” he said. “But the real question is: if the market is that big, why are we spending so little marketing to it?”

Technology, Growth, and Cultural Connection

Rodriguez and Nuño-Whelan also discussed the evolving role of customer experience, technology, and innovation—not only within the automotive sector but across industries.

Nuño-Whelan described how Lincoln is rethinking its approach to design and brand identity. “Lincoln has always been about a different kind of confidence,” he explained. “Not flashy luxury, but calm confidence — an authentic confidence that shows up in the design and the experience.”

The discussion also explored how companies must better understand cultural dynamics when reaching new audiences. “It’s not just about doing a commercial in Spanish,” Nuño-Whelan said. “It’s about mainstreaming Latino culture and recognizing that it’s part of the broader American story.”

The conversation also touched on the current social



From left: Joaquin Nuño-Whelan, Gabriel Rodriguez-Garriga and Mark Moreno

climate, referencing the Super Bowl as a platform that extends beyond sports to convey broader cultural messages about unity and resilience in the United States.

They reflected on a message shared by halftime performer Bad Bunny, quoting the sentiment: “The only thing more powerful than hate is love.”

To reinforce that message of inclusivity, both Rodriguez and Nuño-Whelan selected the song DtMF (Debí Tirar Más Fotos) from Bad Bunny’s most recent album as their walk-up music for the event.

A Message of Momentum

The forum concluded with an audience question about the key to success in leadership and business, directed to Nuño-Whelan.

His response resonated strongly with attendees: “Success is movement and not staying still.”

From start to finish, the

22nd Annual Economic Forum served as both an inspirational and forward-looking gathering. Events like these, organizers noted, highlight the power of collaboration and dialogue among leaders committed to strengthening business communities and expanding economic opportunity.

As participants departed with new connections and insights, the message of the morning remained clear: When leaders come together, ideas grow, partnerships deepen, and communities move forward.

The MHCC remains committed to its members and the broader business community by continuing to provide these forums for inspiration and inclusion for all.

Patricia Nava is the Business Development & Communications Director at the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



Joaquin Nuño-Whelan, President of Lincoln Motor Company, in conversation with Gabriel Rodriguez-Garriga, VP of Strategy and Environmental Analysis at Barton Malow, shared insights about innovation, the future of customer experience, and Lincoln’s continued commitment to the Detroit region.



Mark A Moreno, Executive Director of the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce addresses the audience of more than 250 business leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals.



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Detroit City FC defeats Brooklyn FC, 3-0, at Keyworth

Photos by Adam J. Dewey/ EL
CENTRAL PHOTOGRAPHER
The DCFC men have started

the 2026 season at Keyworth,
hosting Brooklyn FC.
DCFC men defeated Brooklyn

FC, 3-0, in front of 5,559 fans.
DCFC men go on the road this
Saturday, March 21st. taking on



Sports Editor: Dan Grashuck/ EL CENTRAL

Indy Eleven, at 7 pm.
They return home on, Saturday,
March 28th, hosting Charleston

Battery, at 4:00 pm, at Keyworth.
Photos below are highlights
from Detroit City vs. Brooklyn
FC



Ryan Williams (#6) slides in to attempt a tackle



Carlos Herrera (#1) boots the ball upfield



Detroit City FC celebrates a goal in the first half



Jeciel Cedeño (#10) makes a slide tackle on Vuk Latinovich



Tommy Silva (#33) centers a pass during a Detroit City FC offensive attack



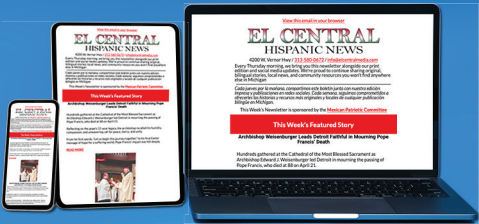
Detroit City FC supporters fire off smoke to celebrate DCFC's 3-0 victory over Brooklyn FC

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HISPANIC NEWS



Detroit City Is Quick Out Of The Gate

Darren Smith scored two first half goals and Chisom Egbuchulam added a late insurance goal as Detroit City FC started 2026 in the best possible way. Even though visiting Brooklyn had a significant advantage in possession time, DCFC had double the number of shots and more than double the number of shots on goal in a performance that warmed the bones of a chilly crowd of 5,559 at Keyworth Stadium.

Last Saturday’s home opener started with a stoppage. Both teams stood still for the first minute of the game in a silent protest against the USL’s leadership with whom the players union has been in negotiations over a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The players have authorized their union to declare a strike. At this point, they have not decided to stop work, but are keeping that option on the table. The previous agreement expired on December 31, 2025, but negotiations started during the second half of 2024.

DCFC didn’t let the labor troubles bother them on opening day. Less than two minutes after the players started to play the game, new captain Devon Amoo-Mensah sent a long ball



David Levine
EL CENTRAL

forward that found Smith getting into space behind the Brooklyn FC defense. The South African finished coolly and then went to embrace his family behind the goal. That set off the first smoke-filled goal celebration of the season.

Brooklyn, coming off a win over Indy XI in their first ever game, came back into the game and worked the ball around comfortably as DCFC took a breather after the fast start. They failed to take advantage of their ball control, however, creating little of note. DCFC goalkeeper Carlos Herrera made one good save from a free kick after twelve minutes, but rarely had to stretch himself.

Smith added a second from a goalmouth scramble. Kobe Hernandez-Foster floated in a free kick from the left wing that was poorly played by a Brooklyn defender. Smith beat the goalkeeper to the ball for a tap in. Early in the second half, though, DCFC fans had cause to worry when Smith limped off after a non-contact injury. It’s difficult to guess the severity, but Smith went straight to the locker room.

Egbuchulam came on for his club debut and offered something different. While Smith likes to find gaps in the defense and play on the shoulder of defenders,

Egbuchulam brings a more physical approach. He looks like he has a strong upper body and won’t shy away from the rough and tumble of lower division football. He got his reward for a strong first appearance five minutes from time when he got on the end of a through ball from Maxi Rodriguez and forced the ball in to the goal. That capped off a near perfect performance.

Rodriguez looked like he never left. He stepped into his usual spot behind the forwards and added experience and composure to the midfield. He received a much warmer reception than his lone appearance at Keyworth for Rhode Island last year. Once he gets a feel for his new teammates, those that weren’t here during his previous stint, the offense should find more rhythm.

DCFC will be sweating on Smith’s injury. There were already without defensive stalwart Michael Bryant, who was injured in the final preseason game. Newcomer Callum Montgomery stepped in and gave a solid display. Other new members of the DCFC squad also came in and did well. Tommy Silva occupied the left back spot. The best part of his game is that he made no glaring errors against Brooklyn. In addition to Egbuchulam, Alex Dalou, Rio Hope-Gund,

and Preston Tabort Etaka all made their first appearance for Le Rouge.

It’s likely that Danny Dichio will rotate the squad for the US Open Cup game against the Michigan Rangers during the week. That game has been moved from Keyworth to an indoor facility in Brighton due to the expected weather conditions. DCFC will be on the road for the first time on Saturday at Indy XI. Indy XI had the weekend off to recover after losing to Brooklyn. While

the opening game for DCFC went as well as anyone could have hoped, they have started hot in recent seasons only to fade badly during the warmer months. They have to change that narrative this year. Winning the opening game, creating plenty of chances, and keeping a clean sheet will please fans and the coaching staff. Maintaining that level consistently over the course of a long season is what they have to do now.



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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:
Why it is more important than ever to have a passport in the US

By José López Zamorano/ LA RED HISPANA

For most Americans, the passport has long been a document of convenience: a small blue booklet associated with travel abroad.

It sits tucked away in a drawer, used for vacations or business trips, and then disappears again. But an ongoing political and legal shift could be redefining what that document signifies—not overseas, but right here within the country itself.

The Save America Act—which has passed the House of Representatives and enjoys broad popular support—seeks to mandate proof of identity for voter registration, along with a photo ID on Election Day.

If passed by the Senate this week, it would mark a transformation in how civic participation is verified in the United States.

And within that conversation, the passport is emerging as one of the most powerful tools a

citizen can possess.

It is estimated that around 47% of U.S. citizens do not hold a passport—a figure equivalent to 148 million people.

Unlike driver’s licenses or state-issued IDs, the U.S. passport serves as proof of both identity and citizenship in a single document.

Many forms of identification compliant with the REAL ID Act can confirm who you are, but they cannot definitively prove that you are a citizen entitled to vote.

If new requirements place equal emphasis on both identity and citizenship, the passport becomes essential: it is widely accepted, difficult to challenge, and issued at the federal level.

The reasons why millions of Americans do not hold a passport vary. Some have simply never needed one. Others are deterred by the cost, the paperwork, or the time required to obtain it. For

many low-income individuals, seniors, or residents of rural areas, obtaining a passport can be far less straightforward than it might seem.

When participation in democracy becomes tied to access to specific documents, the disparities regarding who possesses those documents begin to matter.

It is not that the passport itself is exclusionary; rather, the path to obtaining one is not equally easy for everyone.

Proponents of stricter voter ID laws argue that such measures are necessary to safeguard the integrity of elections. From that perspective, requiring verifiable identification—especially something as robust as a passport—is simply common sense.

Critics, however, see a different pattern. They point to historical precedents in which administrative hurdles—though seemingly neutral—ultimately



served to limit the participation of certain groups.

This tension—between security and access—has no simple solution.

As Election Day on November 3rd draws near, the practical implications of these policies are becoming clearer.

For some voters, nothing will change. For others, the process could become more complex, requiring additional steps, documentation, and planning.

In this context, a passport begins to look less like a travel accessory and more like a guarantee: a document that ensures you can participate fully in the democratic process. And that alone makes it worth obtaining as soon as possible.

To start the application process, visit: <https://www.usa.gov/es/solicitar-pasaporte-estadounidense-primera-vez>

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Opinión del invitado:
Por qué es más importante que nunca tener pasaporte en EEUU

Por José López Zamorano/ LA RED HISPANA

Para la mayoría de los estadounidenses, el pasaporte ha sido durante mucho tiempo un documento de conveniencia: un pequeño cuaderno azul asociado con viajes al extranjero.

Vive guardado en un cajón, se usa para vacaciones o viajes de trabajo y luego vuelve a desaparecer. Pero un cambio político y legal en marcha podría estar redefiniendo lo que ese documento significa, no en el exterior, sino dentro del propio país.

La Save America Act, aprobada en la Cámara de Representantes, y que cuenta con amplio apoyo popular, busca exigir prueba de identidad para registrarse para votar, junto con una identificación con foto el día de las elecciones.

Si es aprobada en el Senado

esta semana, ello marcaría una transformación en la forma en que se verifica la participación cívica en Estados Unidos.

Y en esa conversación, el pasaporte está emergiendo como una de las herramientas más poderosas que puede tener un ciudadano.

Se estima que alrededor del 47% de los ciudadanos estadounidenses no tienen pasaporte, equivalente a 148 millones de personas.

A diferencia de las licencias de conducir o las identificaciones estatales, el pasaporte estadounidense sirve como prueba de identidad y de ciudadanía en un solo documento.

Muchas formas de identificación bajo el REAL ID pueden confirmar quién

eres; pero no pueden demostrar de manera definitiva que eres ciudadano con derecho a votar.

Si los nuevos requisitos enfatizan tanto la identidad como la ciudadanía, el pasaporte se vuelve esencial: es ampliamente aceptado, difícil de cuestionar y emitido a nivel federal.

Las razones por las cuales millones no tienen pasaporte varían. Algunos nunca lo han necesitado. Otros se ven impedidos por el costo, el papeleo o el tiempo que toma obtenerlo. Para muchas personas de bajos ingresos, adultos mayores o residentes en zonas rurales, conseguir un pasaporte puede ser menos sencillo de lo que parece.

Cuando la participación en la democracia se vincula al acceso a ciertos documentos,

las desigualdades en quién tiene esos documentos empiezan a importar.

No es que el pasaporte sea excluyente. Es que el camino para obtenerlo no es igual de fácil para todos.

Quienes apoyan leyes de identificación más estrictas argumentan que son necesarias para proteger la integridad de las elecciones. Desde esa perspectiva, exigir identificación verificable—especialmente algo tan sólido como un pasaporte—tiene sentido común.

Los críticos, sin embargo, ven un patrón distinto. Señalan precedentes históricos en los que obstáculos administrativos, aunque parecieran neutrales, terminaron limitando la participación de ciertos grupos.

Esta tensión—entre seguridad

y acceso—no tiene una solución sencilla.

A medida que se acerca el día de las elecciones del 3 de noviembre, las implicaciones prácticas de estas políticas se vuelven más claras.

Para algunos votantes, nada cambiará. Para otros, el proceso podría volverse más complejo, requiriendo pasos adicionales, documentación y planificación.

En ese contexto, el pasaporte empieza a parecer menos un accesorio de viaje y más una garantía: un documento que asegura que puedes participar plenamente en el proceso democrático. Y sólo eso hace que valga la pena obtenerlo cuanto antes; Para iniciar el trámite visita: <https://www.usa.gov/es/solicitar-pasaporte-estadounidense-primera-vez>

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Saint Patrick's Battalion

Saint Patrick's Battalion

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, the patron saint of the Irish. The Irish have held a special place in Mexican history.

In the 19th century, from 1846 to 1848, the American Intervention took place in the north of what was then the newly formed Mexico.

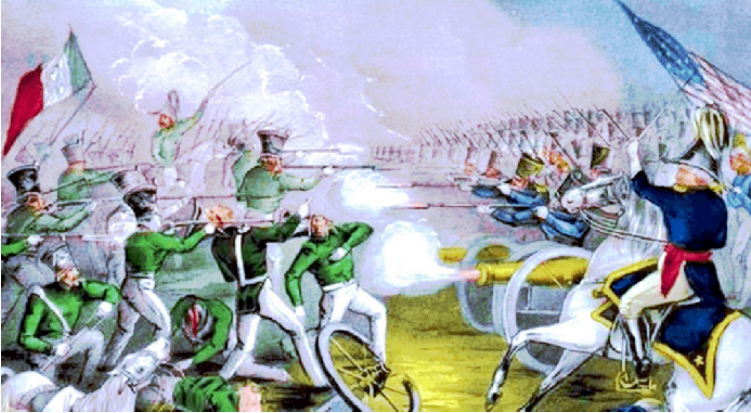
The purpose of this war was to acquire territories that at that time comprised northern Mexico, including the proposed incorporation of Texas.

The war began on May 13, 1846, when the United States declared war on Mexico, bolstered at that time by Catholic artillery, primarily Irish, led by Lieutenant John O'Reilly. In September 1846, John O'Reilly, witnessing the mockery of the Irish by Americans and the religious differences within the Protestant Christian army, deserted along with his battalion of approximately three hundred soldiers. He joined Patrick Dalton in the Mexican army to defend the territory that at that time comprised northern Mexico.

The Saint Patrick's Battalion, also known as Los Patricios, grew to approximately 800 soldiers, who shared a common Catholic background and came from various European countries, primarily Ireland, but also Germany.

On September 21, 1846, they fought for the first time on the Mexican side at the Battle of Monterrey, Nuevo León. They continued to defend Mexico during the Battle of Buena Vista, the Battle of Cerro Gordo, the Battle of Churubusco, and the Battle of Mexico City.

In the Battle of Churubusco, near Mexico City, John O'Reilly, later known as Juan Reley or Juan Riley, along with several members of his artillery, were captured, many of whom were hanged by the U.S. Army. In 1848, the U.S. Army



entered Mexico City, where they forced Mexican President Antonio López de Santa Anna to sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, by which Mexico ceded 55% of what was then Mexican territory. The Patriot hero, John O'Reilly, after his capture, was sentenced to hard labor, which he endured for 12 months under torture. He was later released, and his whereabouts became unknown. After a persistent search, the writer and historian Robert Ryal Miller found the death certificate of a man named Juan Reley in the parish of the port of Veracruz, which reads:

"In the Heroic City of Veracruz, on the thirty-first of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, I, Don Ignacio José Jiménez, parish priest of this Parish, named the Assumption of Our Lady, gave ecclesiastical burial in the general cemetery to the body of Juan Reley, forty-five years of age, a native of Ireland, single, his parents are unknown."

Song to Juan Riley

Juan Riley is recognized in Mexico for the Ballad of John Riley, or Hymn of the Saint Patrick's Battalion. This song, a product of popular genius, bears witness to the American invasion of Mexico and is an ode to a great heroic battalion formed by Irish, German, and other nationalities who switched from the invading ranks to the defenders of Mexico.

My name is John Riley
listen to me for a moment:
I left my deer at home,
in Ireland.
There, death reigned:
hunger or exile.

When I arrived in America
it was my duty
to join the Navy
and I marched from Texas
to join the war
against Mexico.

It was there,
in those towns and ravines
that I understood the mistake I had made.

I saw myself conquering poor and dying Catholics
with the gospel of bayonets.
I saw Him in the prisons
where raped mothers
and screaming children
denounced the pestilent stench
of this war.

I and three hundred Irishmen
decided to rise up
to the call of Him who guided us.

We,
from Dublin to San Diego
bore witness to the denied freedom.

We formed the Saint Patrick's Battalion
and fought on the Mexican side.

We marched under the green banner of Saint Patrick:
Erin Go Bragh emblazoned with "Erin Go Bragh."
Shining upon it were the harp and the shamrock,
and the motto:
"Freedom for Mexico."
Only fifty years after Wolfstone.
All this happened five thousand miles from there.

The Yankees called us a Legion of Strangers,
the Heroes Without a Country.
We fought them in Matamoros,
because their volunteers were raping the nuns.
In Monterrey and Cerro Gordo,
we fought like sons of Ireland.
We were the red warriors of liberty,
fighting
alongside these brown men and women.
They and we,
fought against tyranny.
And I dare say that...
We would do it again!
We fought in five great battles.
Churubusco was the last of them.
Overwhelmed by the cannons of Boston,
we fell after each deadly shot.

Many of us died at our posts,
like Mexicans!
Far from our also occupied homeland,
we were heroes and martyrs.
Such is destiny,
this is how it calls us.

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El Batallón San Patricio

El Batallón San Patricio: Batallón Irlandés

El 17 de marzo se celebra el día de San Patricio, Santo Patrono de los Irlandeses. Los irlandeses han tenido un lugar especial en la historia de México.

En el siglo XIX, de 1846 a 1848 se llevó a cabo la Intervención Estadounidense en el norte de lo que en ese momento era el recién formado México.

El propósito de esta guerra era obtener territorios de lo que en aquel momento fue parte el norte del territorio mexicano, entre lo que se proponía incorporar Texas.

La guerra dio inicio el 13 de mayo de 1846, cuando Estados Unidos declaró la guerra a México, fortalecido en ese momento por la artillería católica, principalmente irlandesa, liderada por el teniente John O'Reilly.

En septiembre de 1846, John O'Reilly al ver cómo se burlaban los estadounidenses de los irlandeses, así como las diferencias religiosas del ejército protestante cristiano, desertó junto con su batallón de unos trescientos soldados, uniéndose junto con Patrick Dalton al ejército mexicano en la defensa del territorio que en ese momento formaba parte del norte de México.

El batallón de San Patricio, también llamado, Los Patricios fue aumentando de fuerzas hasta llegar a aproximadamente 800 soldados, que tenían en común ser católicos de diferentes países de Europa, principalmente Irlanda, pero también de Alemania.

El 21 de septiembre de 1846 se enfrentan por primera vez del lado mexicano en la batalla de Monterrey, Nuevo León. Continuaron con la defensa mexicana durante la Batalla de Buena Vista, la Batalla de



Cerro Gordo, la Batalla de Churubusco, la Batalla de la Ciudad de México.

En la Batalla de Churubusco, de la Ciudad de México, John O'Reilly, posteriormente conocido como Juan Reley o Juan Riley, junto con varios miembros de su artillería fueron aprehendidos, siendo muchos de ellos ahorcados por el ejército estadounidense. En 1848 entra el ejército estadounidense hasta la Ciudad de México, donde fuerzan al presidente mexicano Antonio López de Santa Anna el 2 de febrero de 1848 a firmar el Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo con el que México cedió forzosamente el 55% de lo que en ese momento era el territorio mexicano.

El héroe Patricio, John O'Reilly, posterior a su aprehensión fue condenado a trabajos forzados que cumplió durante 12 meses de tortura, posteriormente fue liberado perdiéndose su rastro. Tras una pertinaz búsqueda, el escritor e historiador Robert Ryal Miller, encontró el acta de defunción de un hombre de nombre Juan Reley, en la parroquia del puerto de Veracruz, la cual dice:

“En la Heroica Ciudad de Veracruz, en treinta y uno de agosto de mil ochocientos cincuenta, Yo Don Ignacio José Jiménez, cura propio de esta Parroquia, título la Asunción de Nuestra Señora, di sepultura eclesiástica en el cementerio general al cuerpo de Juan Reley, de cuarenta y cinco años de edad, natural de Irlanda, soltero, se ignora los padres”.

Balada de Juan Riley

Juan Relei ha sido reconocido en México con la Balada de John Riley o Himno del Batallón de San Patricio, es una canción, producto del genio popular, que atestigua la invasión estadounidense a México y es oda a un gran batallón heroico formado por soldados irlandeses, alemanes y otras nacionalidades, que se pasaron desde las filas invasoras a las defensoras de México.

Mi nombre es John Riley
escúchame un momento:
dejé mi venado en casa,
en Irlanda.
Allá imperaba la muerte:
hambre o exilio.

Cuando llegué a América
estaba en mi deber
entrar a la Armada
y marché desde Texas
para unirme a la guerra
contra México.



Fue ahí,
en esos pueblos y barrancos
cuando comprendí el error que había hecho.

Me vi conquistando pobres y moribundos
católicos
con el evangelio de las bayonetas
Yo lo vi en las cárceles
donde madres violadas
y niños gritones,
denunciaban el hedor pestilente
de esta guerra.
Yo y trescientos irlandeses
decidimos levantarnos
a la llamada de Él que nos guiaba.

Nosotros,
desde Dublín a San Diego
dimos testimonio de la libertad negada.
Formamos el Batallón de San Patricio
y peleamos del lado mexicano.

Marchamos bajo el verde pabellón de San
Patricio:
Blasonado con el “Erin Go Bragh”.
Brillaban en él, el arpa y el trébol,
y el lema:
“Libertad para México”.

Solo cincuenta años después de Wofltone.
Todo esto sucedió a cinco mil millas de aquello.
Los yanquis nos llamaron una Legión de Extraños,
los Héroes Sin Patria.
Los combatimos en Matamoros,
porque sus voluntarios violaban a las monjas.
En Monterrey y Cerro Gordo,
nosotros peleamos como hijos de Irlanda.
Fuimos los guerreros rojos de la libertad,
luchando
junto a estos hombres y mujeres morenos.
Ellos y nosotros,
peleamos contra la tiranía.
Y me atrevo a decir que...
¡Lo haríamos otra vez!

Combatimos en cinco grandes batallas.
Churubusco fue la última de ellas.
Abrumados por los cañones de Boston,
caímos después de cada disparo mortal.
Muchos de nosotros murieron en sus puestos,
¡Cómo mexicanos!
Muy lejos de nuestra también ocupada Patria,
fuimos héroes y mártires.
Así es el destino,
así es que nos llama.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en

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